

Jon,

Due to a rescheduled construction project site meeting, I will not be able to attend the June 9th Fire TAG meeting.

At the May 26th Fire TAG meeting, I was one of the volunteers agreeing to review new Chapter 46 of the 2009 IFC. I am submitting a written review because I can not attend the meeting. Please feel free to provide this review to the other members.

I have attached to this email .pdf files for the ICC documents appearing in **bold font** below:

**1. IFC Chapter 46** was proposed in F294-07/08 by the Joint Fire Service Review Committee. The proposal also deleted or changed some paragraphs in Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 25.

**2. F294-07/08** intent was to re-organize all the existing 2006 IFC retroactive requirements into one location separate from the new building requirements. The intent of the proponent was to simply relocate the requirements (making appropriate deletions or changes to the previous source chapters having retroactive requirements).

F294-07/08 was Approved as Modified by the Code Development Committee. The Committee *"acknowledged that additional work may be needed on the new chapter but felt that the scope of the work done on this proposal warrants its inclusion in the code at this time"*.

The proponent submitted Public Comment on the original proposal, partially to challenge some of the modifications recommended by the Committee. The final version of Chapter 46 is a combination of the original proposal, the modifications by the Committee, and the action on the public comment.

The final Chapter 46 also includes other approved proposals that would have changed these retroactive requirements as if they had remained in their previous 2006 chapter locations.

I reviewed the original proposal and all of these sequential revisions. Nothing seems to be unreasonable.

The most important change in Ch 46 appears to be the charging Section 4601: *"The intent of this chapter is to provide a minimum degree of fire and life safety to persons occupying existing buildings by providing alterations to such buildings that do not comply with the minimum requirements of the International Building Code"*. Yes, it reads "**Building Code**". It seems it should have been the **Fire Code** or have also included the Fire Code. Many of the requirements are from the Fire Code, although some requirements were repeated in the companion code as designated by a [B] or [F].

Paragraph 4601.4, Owner Notification requires the FCO to duly notify the owner of the building when it is found to be in noncompliance with this Chapter. The Owner shall, subject to approved time limits, take action to comply. Such corrections may currently be monitored by FCO's under their local inspection and tagging procedures, rather than under a process that is specifically described in the IFC.

The remainder of the Chapter is moved from 2006 IFC chapters. Where appropriate, some of the chapters from which requirements were moved to Ch 46 now include a reference to Ch 46.

Section 4604, MEANS OF EGRESS FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS was largely moved from Section 1027.

Section 4605, REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR OPERATIONS was moved from Paragraph 2506.1.

I did not find significant areas where Ch 46 is in conflict with the other Chapters, or where it makes changes beyond the concept of organizing retroactive requirements in one location.

However, there are some retroactive existing building requirements in the IFC, such as in Chapter 8, Interior Finish, that do not appear in Ch 46. Due to the charging paragraph 4601, it seems OK that only

the fire and life safety deficiency alterations that may likely be enforced are included in Ch 46, even though the proponent's stated intent was to include all of them.

State retroactive amendments, such as WA 2006 IFC 903.2.1.6 Nightclubs, should have the retroactive provisions moved to Ch. 46. This will require reviewing all of the State amendments for retroactive requirements and judging whether they should appear in Ch. 46.

**3. 2009 IBC Chapter 34 Existing Structures** does not appear to have very significant conflicts with IFC Ch 46, but the two chapters are not cross referenced. They stand alone and generally cover different code aspects. It would have been desirable to have at least a shared format.

One conflict I did note is between 2009 IBC Section 3406 FIRE ESCAPES and 2009 IFC Paragraph 4604.17 Fire Escape Stairs.

3406.2 Location, 3406.3 Construction, 3406.4 Dimensions, and 3406.5 Opening Protectives are partially in conflict, respectively, with 4604.17.4 Access, 4604.17.5 Materials and strength, 4604.17.3 Dimensions and 4604.17.2 Protection of openings.

The above conflicts also currently exist between **2006 IBC Section 3404** and **2006 IFC Paragraph 1027.16**. Due to the nature of these minor conflicts and the wide variation of existing fire stair conditions, the conflicts could be ignored, or could be eliminated by State amendment. A proposal could be submitted to ICC for the 2012 codes.

**SUMMARY:** I recommend including 2009 IFC Ch 46 in the State IFC adoption. It would be very difficult to relocate the retroactive provisions in Ch 46 back to their 2006 IFC source chapters by the State amendment process.

The TAG may recommend language providing some correlation between IBC Ch 34 and IFC Ch 46, and also to correct conflicts regarding fire escape requirements.

Additionally, it will be necessary to incorporate all retroactive State IFC amendments into Chapter 46.

Respectfully submitted,

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